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Aetopterum munitum (Kaulf.) comb. nov. (*Aspidium munitum* Kaulf. Enum. Fil. 236. 1824. *Polystichum*, Presl.).

Aetopterum scopulinum (D. C. Eaton) comb. nov. (*Aspidium aculeatum scopulinum* D. C. Eaton, Ferns N. Am. 2: 125. 1880. *Polystichum*, Maxon).

STATE MUSEUM, ALBANY, N. Y.

Recent Fern Literature

Dr. Paul W. Graff¹ has listed five ferns as previously unreported from Montana—*Ophioglossum vulgatum*, *Cystopteris fragilis*, var. *angustata*, *Aspidium cristatum*, *A. Filix-mas* and *A. spinulosum*, var. *intermedium*. These reports are based on specimens in the herbarium of the University of Montana and are accompanied by notes on the species concerned and a comparative table of their ranges in the states and Canadian provinces adjacent to Montana.

Unfortunately, Dr. Graff has overlooked a good deal of literature on Montana ferns. *Ophioglossum vulgatum* which he lists as new to the state, was reported in 1917 by Prof. M. J. Elrod as having been found at Yellow Bay, Flathead Lake (the same station cited by Dr. Graff) by Miss Bessie Green in 1914.² *Aspidium Filix-mas*, concerning which Dr. Graff says he has been unable to locate any definite report, was recorded by T. J. Fitzpatrick in 1904 from six Montana localities.³—C. A. W.

¹ Graff, Paul W. Unreported ferns from Montana. Bull. Torr. Bot Club 47: 125-129. March, 1920.

² Elrod, Morton J. *Ophioglossum vulgatum* L. in Montana. Amer. Fern Journ. 7: 125. 1917.

³ Fern Bulletin 12: 97. 1904.

A FRUITLESS SEARCH FOR *ASPLENIUM MONTANUM* IN PENNSYLVANIA.—The history of the alleged finding of *Asplenium fontanum* in Pennsylvania was fully described several years ago in the Fern Bulletin, and need not be repeated here. It has no doubt been searched for by many botanists in subsequent years, but apparently without success. The desirability of obtaining soil tests upon this species for inclusion in the writer's paper on the soil reactions of rock ferns, made a further effort to find it seem worth while. The original report gave the habitat as limestone cliffs; but there are no limestone cliffs on the Lycoming Creek, where the find was alleged to have been made. Nevertheless visits to the region were planned, starting from the town of Williamsport, which lies just east of the valley of this creek.

Cliffs of brown shale and sandstone were found to form one or the other bank of Lycoming Creek for many miles above its mouth. In summer these proved to support so abundant a growth of *Filix fragilis* and *Woodsia Ilvensis* that any *Asplenium fontanum* which might occur there would be extremely difficult to find. It was accordingly decided to make another trip in the winter, when the fronds of these obscuring species would be withered down, while the plant sought, being evergreen, would, if present at all, be in sight.

Early in January, 1920, Dr. Everett G. Logue and the writer took the trip. The stream was frozen over solidly in most places, making travel comparatively easy, and permitting access to many cliffs which were out of reach during the summer. As hoped, the *Filix* and *Woodsia* were invisible, and the only fern which could in any way (at a distance) be mistaken for the species sought was *Asplenium Trichomanes*; and a near view gave it away at once. The weather, while cold, was not unpleasant, so everything seemed to favor the finding of

Asplenium fontanum, were it really there. The results of a whole day's search were, however, negative.

The following notes may nevertheless be of interest. The soils on these cliffs showed a specific acidity ranging from 1 (neutrality) to 300, so that plants of widely different soil preferences have locally found a foothold there. Such ferns as were seen were growing for the most part in the soils of the lower acidities, from 1 to 10. It would be expected that *A. fontanum* would thrive here, for it is reported to grow elsewhere in limestone soils, where the reaction is likely to be nearly neutral. This it was possible to confirm on a specimen collected at Mt. Revard, France, by Mr. Walter Mattern, while serving with the American Expeditionary forces, and sent to Mr. Harold W. Pretz, who kindly turned it over to the writer. The soil adhering to the plant's roots showed a specific acidity of 3. The failure to rediscover this fern on the Lycoming cliffs, in spite of thorough search in apparently chemically suitable locations, made under circumstances unusually favorable, certainly suggests that if *Asplenium fontanum* ever did grow in that locality, it has subsequently been exterminated.—EDGAR T. WHERRY, WASHINGTON, D. C.

MORE VERMONT FERN LISTS.—Local fern lists, in competition or comparison with Mr. Winslow's Willoughby list, continue to be sent in to the JOURNAL. The editors are very glad to receive them in any quantity and are only sorry that space does not permit printing them in full.

The two lists now at hand are both from Vermont—only Vermont, apparently, being able to compete effectively with Vermont. Mr. H. C. Ridlon sends a list of 30 species of true ferns and 4 Ophioglossaceae found within an eighty-acre area on the Charles Downer State For-